

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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May 7, 1984

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 84-54

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAM

REFERENCE: MPP SECTION 69-203.1

This letter is to provide information to the County Welfare Departments (CWDs) regarding the Orderly Departure Program (ODP).

BACKGROUND

The ODP Program was established in 1980 when an agreement was reached between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Vietnamese Government which allows only Vietnamese nationals to immigrate to the United States. They are processed either as refugees under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by the Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212), or as holders of immigrant visas under the Immigration and Nationality Act. Vietnamese nationals may have qualified for the ODP under any one of the following three categories:

1. Individuals who were close family members of persons in the United States. The term "close family member" means spouses, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, parents, grandparents, and unmarried grandchildren.
2. Individuals who were former employees of the United States Government with at least one year of service after January 1, 1962.
3. Individuals who had other close ties to the United States, such as former employees of American firms or organizations; individuals who studied in the United States or those who studied abroad under United States Government sponsorship; individuals who held significant positions in the civil administration or armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam prior to 1975 and who were closely associated with American-directed programs or activities; individuals who received American combat awards or decorations; and other individuals who were in re-education camps or who may have suffered penalties or deprivation because of their former close association with the United States.

Other special humanitarian cases, who did not fit clearly into the above three categories, may have also entered the United States under the ODP.

INSTRUCTIONS: MPP SECTION 69-203.1

Vietnamese nationals who entered as refugees under the ODP are eligible for assistance and services (including English-as-a-Second Language and employment services) under the Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP). Vietnamese nationals who entered as immigrants under the ODP are not eligible for assistance and services under RRP.

It is quite possible that some members in the same family budget unit may have entered as refugees and some as immigrants. RRP funds may be claimed for only those individuals who have entered the United States as refugees or those individuals who have been granted asylum in the United States. RRP funds are not available for those individuals who have entered as refugees and have since become naturalized United States citizens.

Questions regarding this letter should be directed to your CWD Operations Bureau Consultant at (916) 322-3141 or (415) 557-8588, as appropriate.


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